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4-H CLUB WORK HELPED ME TO GET A START

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A radio talk by Homer E. Crandall, Farmer, Newcastle, Indiana, delivered in the 4-H club program, National Farm and Home Hour, Saturday, June 2, 1934, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

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Farm homemakers, 4-H club boys and girls, and club leaders of the radio audience:

In the past thirty years it has been my privilege to enjoy farm life, a four year course in vocational agriculture at the Mount Summit High School, and five years in 4-H club work. Four-H club work was a new thing in the county then, but we were very fortunate in having good instructors. I started in club work when a freshman in high school, making the county livestock judging team and winning third individual place in the state at the Indiana State Fair in 1920.

Under this work and instruction we were taught how to select our livestock the best fitted to our farms. In selecting these classes the main things we considered were quality, conformation, type, vitality, production and soundness. We learned how to judge each qualification for draft horses, dairy cattle, beef cattle, swine and sheep.

After studying crops in vocational work one year in high school I set forth to try my hand in corn production, which we had given especial attention, it being the king of all crops.

With this in mind I joined the boys and girls 4-H corn club of Indiana. In this work we studied reasons for the low yields generally being produced and this interested me to try to see just what we could do by following correct practices. Incidentally, I wished to grow more and better corn than my father.

I chose my acre in a piece of new ground which had been in corn the year before. The soil was black loam, underlaid with a gravelly subsoil giving it good natural drainage.

My seed was "Johnson County White". It was sold to me as tested seed and proved to be strong in viability and vitality, giving me a good enough stand that I didn't need to replant. At the end of the year when the check of the corn club of the state was made, my yield of 142.3 bushels gained for me the title of Junior Corn King of the state for the year 1921.

After this achievement I set forth to try to raise my yield by selection of proper seed testing 100%, proper tillage of the soil, proper fertilization, and selecting a plot that was well drained.

Following this program I was successful in again being Junior Corn King of Indiana in the year 1922, with a yield of 148.5 bushel, exceeding the year previous by six bushels.

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On the hill sides and fertile low lands from which I produced these yields that gave me recognition as Junior Corn King of Indiana in 1921 and 1922, I now live, laying plans to enter and place in the men's five-acre corn contest.

Experience in judging and handling livestock has left me with a keen desire to own and produce the best, while my acting as a 4-H club officer, and later as a leader has fitted me better for the duties of citizenship which are coming my way.

I do not want the boys and girls to think that farm life is all a bed of roses. There are at least as many thorns scattered along the farmer's life road as are scattered for any other man.

Therefore, I believe it is most essential for our boys and girls to have vocational training to develop them for the responsibilities of farm life. If we live the Club Creed, we are taught how to become a useful citizen, the nobleness and dignity of life, the trinity of club work, which stands for home, school and achievement. All of these things I believe and dedicate my service for their fulfillment.